



Date: February 29, 2016

Memo To: Town of Bluffton Town Council; Don Ryan Center for Innovation Board of Directors; Marc Orlando, Town Manager

From: David Nelems, Don Ryan Center for Innovation Executive Director

RE: FEBRUARY 2016 DON RYAN CENTER FOR INNOVATION REPORT

CENTER OPERATIONS

- Approved several new submissions to **LowcountryWORKS.com**.
- Adding new **"Start-up/New Business" Category to LowcountryWORKS.com**
- Meeting regarding potential **DRCI/HHIEDC partnership**.
- **2016 planning meetings** with Chairman Matt Green.
- Meeting with **Trisha Greathouse regarding DRCI budget**, expenses.
- Worked on **2016 Strategic Planning and Goals** documents.
- Participated in **Board Committees conference call**.
- Meet with **BCSD representatives regarding using a school trailer** as temporary space for the DRCI.
- Working on **various grants and outside funding** requests at the Local, State and Corporate level.

INNOVATORS

- Currently there are **8 innovators** in the Center.
- Met with **every innovator at least once** (some multiple times) during the month.
- Coordinating prototype development for **Elongator**. Numerous Videoconference design meetings with the **Southeastern Institute for Manufacturing Technology in Florence, SC**.
- Multiple **calls and videoconferences with Clemson**.
- Conference call with **CERAS** and local rep from **South Carolina Manufacturing and Engineering Partnership**.
- Met with **two potential innovators**.
- Involved with **innovator meetings in conjunction with visit from Clemson's Karl Kelly**.

OUTREACH, STRATEGIC RELATIONSHIPS

- **Ongoing meetings and communication with representatives of HHIEDC** regarding possible partnership.
- **Spoke to Clemson Leadership class** regarding economic development.

- Met with Beaufort Council member Stephen Murray.
- Met with various Council and staff of City of Beaufort about possible City of Beaufort/DRCI partnership.
- Attended HHIEDC Bring Your Business Idea to Life competition
- Dinner meeting with SC Dept. of Commerce Rep Amy Love and Bea Wray from The Creative Coast.
- Lunch meeting with SC Dept. of Commerce Rep Amy Love.
- Spoke to entrepreneurship students at SCAD
- Met with Rep from Celebrate Bluffton about DRCI help/coordination of the Celebrate Bluffton app. Looking to bring in USCB on this project.
- Monthly call with all Clemson Technology Village Directors.
- Continuing year two of partnership with SCAD for entrepreneurship sessions.
- Met with Melissa Steinkuhl from the South Carolina Manufacturing Partnership about using their resources to help DRCI companies who need manufacturing help and advice.
- Meeting with HHIEDC screening committee to select six finalists for their business competition.
- Sent a draft of partnership ideas to USCB.
- Spoke to 9th grade students at McCracken Middle School.
- Met with three potential mentors.
- Conference call with Cross Schools regarding possible partnership.
- Began works on 2016 Golf Tournament fundraiser.

TOWN OF BLUFFTON OPERATIONS

- Attended Senior Staff meetings.
- Various meetings with Town Manager.
- Town Strategic Planning meetings.
- Town Strategic Planning working lunch.
- Attended Town Council.
- Assisted Tommy Sunday with upgrades to a/v of Rotary Center.
- Conference call with Shawn Andreas and Shawn Leininger about possible relocation of company PROTech DNA to Bluffton.
- Meeting with Joy Nelson from Bluffton Police Department about evaluating various PD based apps.
- Attended Quarterly All Staff meeting.